UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
29th meeting
held on
Thursday, 5 November 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.29
16 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

92-57513 6238S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471, A/47/564)

1. Mrs. CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the countries of Central America, underscored the need for international and multilateral action to eradicate drug trafficking. Owing to its geographic situation, Central America was the first frontier for combating drug trafficking in order to protect the young people in the countries most affected by drug consumption. The region therefore must be given sufficient financial, technological and logistical support by those countries in order to cope with the problem, particularly at a time when drug traffickers were using more sophisticated methods in their operations. Aware of the danger that their legitimate institutions might be undermined, the Central American countries had identified international drug trafficking as a major threat to their security.

2. The consumer countries must become more involved in the fight against drug trafficking and provide greater support to the countries directly engaged in that struggle. It was time to focus on specific steps and implement the agreements already concluded. The Central American countries had amended their legislation and were applying the norms adopted by the United Nations and stepping up international and interregional cooperation. At the political level, that cooperation was reflected in compliance with the major international agreements in the field. Accordingly, it was hoped that the General Assembly would soon be in a position to enable the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) to meet the numerous challenges facing it.

3. She underscored the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), which had jointly put forward important recommendations on assistance to Governments in harmonizing legislation on drugs, strengthening the administration of justice, training officials, promoting preventive education, compiling statistical information and drawing up international drug control agreements.

4. The United States of America and the European Community, which were the main drug markets, must show a greater readiness to support anti-drug efforts in developing countries, particularly those in Central America, which served as transit routes. Lastly, she stressed the importance of the work by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the other regional institutes in Africa, Asia and Europe, as well as the need to provide them with the necessary means to carry out their programmes effectively.

5. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) said that his country, which had suffered all the consequences of drug trafficking and drug-related terrorism, stressed the importance of the principle of shared responsibility on the part of all States in dealing with those problems. The time had come to establish clear goals and commitments in order to determine responsibility and guide political action to combat drug trafficking. The United Nations, therefore, should set global, regional and individual objectives to be achieved in that regard. Colombia proposed that in 1993 a resumed session of the General Assembly should be held at the highest political level in order to review implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other instruments in the field.

6. While substantial progress had been made in combating drug abuse and the United Nations had dealt with the question in an appropriate manner, there were areas where more of an effort was required. There was a need to combat drug trafficking through an overall approach, attacking production, demand, consumption, money laundering, diversion of chemical precursors and the illegal sale of weapons.

7. The problem must be tackled in a balanced way. Policies to reduce drug consumption through rehabilitation of addicts, creation of jobs and other measures in consumer countries must be strengthened without reducing interdiction in the producer countries. Interdiction policies must be coordinated and stepped up. Colombia had offered to cooperate in that field and had signed a number of agreements on the subject with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Careful consideration should be given to the results achieved through the rehabilitation policies adopted by some industrialized countries where treatment involved use of controlled drug doses. Those policies might lead to a slackening in punitive measures and create new corridors for the entry and consumption of drugs in those countries. Furthermore, efforts must be doubled to combat the alliance of drug mafias seeking to promote mass consumption of drugs in Asia and Europe. Accordingly, the Global Programme of Action should be evaluated in order to redefine priorities and give new guidelines to UNIDCP.

8. His delegation noted with satisfaction the good work carried out by UNIDCP, particularly in coordinating the various United Nations programmes concerned and providing legal assistance in the form of advice and training for legal officials.

9. Owing to lack of reliable information, little headway had been made in evaluating the economic and social impact of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. A world-wide information system should be established in order to have sound data on the entire cycle of drug trafficking. The submission of the report on the activities of the various agencies and programmes covering an entire calendar year represented a lost opportunity with regard to the information submitted to the General Assembly. Receiving at the end of 1993 the report on the activities carried out in 1992 would diminish the possibility of taking the necessary timely decisions.

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

10. The contacts initiated between UNIDCP, the various Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the World Bank, and regional banks were especially important. In view of the clear link between drug trafficking and poverty, alternative development and trade opportunities were decisive in order to overcome the drug problem. The Programme should further increase its coordination with the World Bank, GATT, the International Monetary Fund and UNCTAD in order to find alternatives for the developing countries most affected by drug production and to devise innovative financial mechanisms. The countries that had adopted the 1990 Cartagena Declaration had met in 1992 in order to evaluate the programmes, identify new areas and increase cooperation through a set of anti-drug strategies. With the necessary political will, real progress was being made. In that connection, he urged the entire international community, particularly the European Community and Asian countries, to firmly support that effort.

11. Ms. STROM (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that UNIDCP represented a new approach which aimed to ensure coherent action and coordination in the fight against drugs. The Nordic delegations were pleased to note that, having overcome its initial period of adjustment and administrative uncertainty, UNIDCP was now in a position to play the leading and coordinating role which was its mandate.

12. A vast range of international activities was required to tackle the problems related to narcotic drugs, which transcended national borders and were also cross-sectoral. In order to be globally effective, particularly in view of its limited resources, UNIDCP should therefore act as a catalyst by cooperating with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, bilateral programmes and national institutions. While the Nordic countries welcomed the efforts already made in that direction, they intended to continue stressing that a more comprehensive approach could be attained only if such organizations responded openly to those new cooperation initiatives.

13. International conventions were important weapons in the fight against narcotic drugs. It was equally important, however, that they should form the basis for anti-narcotics legislation in those countries which had ratified them. It was therefore encouraging that more countries had now signed those conventions and that even non-signatories had adopted legislation in compliance with the commitments which they contained. None the less, the Nordic countries wished to draw special attention to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; internationally, there was a growing problem of the abuse of those substances, which were also being exported in considerable quantities from the industrialized world to the developing countries. The Nordic countries therefore urged all Governments in the industrialized countries - some of which were major manufacturers and exporters of psychotropic substances - to adopt legislation in order to comply with the Convention. At the same time, they reiterated their appeal for those countries which had not yet done so to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

(Ms. Strom, Sweden)

14. The increase in production, illegal drug trafficking, drug abuse and new markets demonstrated that the overall situation with regard to narcotic drugs was deteriorating. The Nordic countries disagreed with the view that, such being the case, drugs were now an inevitable part of society and the struggle against them was futile. On the contrary, the seriousness of the situation presented a challenge both to individual States and to the international community as a whole, and all efforts should be mobilized to fight the problem and reduce demand. Despite its prominent role, the United Nations could not replace action by national, regional and subregional authorities. The Nordic countries themselves cooperated closely on prevention, treatment and law enforcement, which greatly enhanced the subregional effects of the struggle against narcotic drugs.

15. That struggle, however, would remain ineffective without adequate resources: the financing of United Nations activities therefore required urgent reform. In that respect, she recalled the Nordic proposals for a system composed of negotiated pledges - in contrast to the current voluntary system of funding - which would be more effective by providing a longer perspective. The proposals also included matters related to governance, which was relevant to UNIDCP. The Nordic countries would therefore like to see further consideration of the subject in the appropriate forums.

16. Individual nations should also assume responsibility for limiting the problems arising from the illicit production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs, for which the social and economic costs were significant world wide. The importance of dealing effectively with those multifaceted problems at all levels should not be neglected in the current discussions concerning the system-wide reform of the United Nations.

17. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that the international community had now reached fairly unanimous agreement on how to deal with the drug problem, while the practice of allocating blame for the drug problem to individual countries had been replaced by the principle of shared responsibility. The various instruments ensuing from that growing consensus provided the framework for joint international efforts. Moreover, together with the establishment of UNIDCP, they demonstrated the will of the international community to address the drug problem. In so doing, it was imperative that States should abide by their obligations under those instruments and avoid any unilateral measures which could hamper international cooperation. In the fight against drugs, cultural and social differences should be among the issues considered, as should the varying levels of economic and social development and the link between socio-economic deterioration and drug production in the developing countries. Illicit trafficking and increasing crime rates were also closely related. No efforts should be spared in devising and implementing the concerted international action needed to respond to the immense task presented by the drug problem. Brazil believed, for instance, that cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should be enhanced.

(Mr. Bahadian, Brazil)

18. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the establishment of UNIDCP represented important contributions to the efforts to combat drugs, to which Brazil naturally attached the utmost importance. Its own administrative and enforcement mechanisms had been considerably strengthened, and a policy document now being drawn up reflected the provisions of that particular Convention, which it had ratified in 1991. Brazil urged those States which had not already done so to ratify or accede to the Convention. It welcomed the initiatives for cooperation on drug prevention and control that were being taken in various States, among them Uruguay.

19. The fact that the situation concerning drug abuse was steadily declining in many parts of the world was abundantly clear in the Secretary-General's report (A/47/471). He wished to highlight three of the points covered in that report: first, concerning the encouragement to international financial institutions to introduce a "drug dimension" in their economic and sectoral work and lending strategies, full attention should be given to determining the socio-economic consequences of reducing narcotic production and supply, and the impact of crop and income substitution. Secondly, the report rightly focused on the need to strengthen drug prevention, rehabilitation and treatment, aspects which had been properly considered by UNIDCP. As acknowledged in the report, an interdisciplinary approach aimed at social reintegration would produce more favourable results than repressive or regulatory actions alone could do. Thirdly, the report should have dealt more specifically with the issue of controlling the chemicals used in illicit drug production. In accordance with the 1988 Convention, States should be encouraged to establish monitoring and control systems to prevent the diversion from licit purposes of chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
In conclusion, he said that Brazil was ready to take part in international efforts to build on the progress achieved.

20. Ms. FENG Cui (China) said that drug production, trafficking and abuse were steadily increasing world wide, despite the encouraging and gratifying results achieved by the international community in its efforts to combat the problem. Drug-related violence, crime and disease were also on the increase, causing serious socio-economic and political difficulties. Indeed, the whole of human civilization and stable social development were jeopardized by the spread of drugs. Further efforts were therefore required to adopt more effective measures to crack down on all drug-related crime.

21. In that connection, she emphasized three points. First, international cooperation in carrying out concerted action should be strengthened, as combating drugs was a shared - rather than individual - responsibility. Such cooperation should be in compliance with the United Nations Charter and international law, and on the basis of mutual respect for State sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Secondly, the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production would not

(Ms. Feng Cui, China)

be possible without the reduction and elimination of demand. If the drug-consuming countries did not fulfil their obligation to take earnest measures in that direction, the joint efforts undertaken by the international community would not have the expected results. Thirdly, drug control policies should be integrated with development policies to encompass the eradication and subsequent substitution of narcotic crops proposed by UNIDCP, which merited full support from the international community. For socio-economic reasons, developing countries encountered more difficulties in combating drugs, and should therefore receive appropriate financial and technical support from the international community.

22. In the past, China had implemented effective measures to eradicate the scourge of opium from the country. In recent years, however, drugs had infiltrated into China via Hong Kong, which was used as a transit point by international drug traffickers. Her Government had therefore introduced firm measures to deal with the country's new drug problem. They included strengthening drug control agencies throughout the country; a legal crack-down on drug abuse and drug-related criminal activities; awareness and educational campaigns aimed at young people in particular; implementation of a policy intended to control illicit trafficking and drug abuse and eradicate illicit crops; and the provision of medical treatment and psychological therapy for drug addicts. As a result, the number of drug cases handled by law enforcement agencies had risen by 120 per cent since 1990, while the amount of heroin seized had risen by over 40 per cent since 1991. Such statistics indicated the effectiveness of the work being done by the Chinese authorities to control transboundary drug trafficking and protect China and the international community from the drug menace.

23. In addition to its efforts to control drugs in China, her Government attached great importance to enhancing international cooperation in combating the problem. To that end, it had supported and participated in cooperative programmes initiated by UNIDCP. It believed that those cooperative relations would be maintained and enhanced, and would continue its efforts to make new contributions in the struggle against drug abuse for the sake of human civilization and progress.

24. Mr. MELAMED (Israel) said that no society could afford to carry the burden of fighting narcotic drugs alone. Though no illegal drugs were produced in Israel, intensive drug activity along its northern borders posed a danger. The number of drug addicts in Israel had increased significantly over the past decade. Lebanon was considered the world's largest producer of hashish. Opium cultivation had recently begun there as well, and some of that product arrived in Israel, Egypt and other countries of the region. Israel would continue to make every effort to curb the smuggling of drugs into its territory from neighbouring countries, and was ready to cooperate with nations, both within and outside the region, in the fight against drug trafficking. It would welcome international assistance in developing a better system of prevention, including cooperation at the points of departure or

(Mr. Melamed, Israel)

transit of drugs before they arrived in Israel. An international effort must be launched to offer Lebanese farmers an opportunity to grow alternative crops to replace drug production. The international campaign against drugs also must include specific measures to protect transit countries.

25. Israel had addressed the drug issue on several fronts, including preventive education, public information, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and active international cooperation. It was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and had signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It had taken steps to bring its domestic legislation into line with the 1988 Convention, and was advancing further legislation to modify the law relating to money-laundering. It had supported the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the Global Programme of Action.

26. Israel had established a national Anti-Drug Authority under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. Through the Authority, Israel had improved interdiction along its borders and was promoting more severe sentences for drug offenders, especially dealers. Prevention programmes were being conducted in an increasing number of schools, and treatment and rehabilitation infrastructure had been improved. Israel had established bilateral cooperation with other nations in that area, and had hosted an international conference on drug abuse.

27. His delegation believed that the international community should adopt a more severe approach to heroin use. It also encouraged the establishment of a central data system in each country.

28. As the prospects for peace in the Middle East improved, it must be remembered that peace was made not only between Governments, but also between people. In the spirit of peaceful coexistence between neighbours, his delegation called on the Governments of Lebanon and Syria to assume their full responsibilities and fight with determination against the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

29. Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) said that, although no narcotic drugs were produced or processed in Venezuela, unfortunately, it had become a major transit country as a result of the establishment of free trade with Colombia. The destabilizing effect of drug trafficking linked with organized crime and subversive movements was extremely dangerous for countries such as his, whose fragility became even more apparent when they were forced to combat drug traffickers without adequate preparation, strategy or resources.

30. The inadequacy of international drug control efforts called for a re-evaluation of strategies. It was quite likely that the international community was not receiving support for its efforts from countries involved in drug consumption, money-laundering and production of chemical precursors. Other States should follow the example of Italy, which had made available

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

sufficient resources and had offered assistance to developing countries in their fight against drug trafficking.

31. His delegation shared the gratitude expressed by many speakers to the Executive Director of UNIDCP, who had assumed an enormous responsibility, comparable only to that of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Drug control activities would affect all of humanity - rich and poor, young and old - economically, socially and politically. Yet the Programme had been allocated an annual budget of only $80 million to fulfil its monumental tasks. Moreover, the Executive Director had reported that he had been unable to obtain the necessary authorizations for the administrative integration of the various bodies which had made up the previous drug control programme, because of the restructuring of the Secretariat. The greatest tribute that could be paid to the Executive Director and UNIDCP would be a speedy solution to the institutional problems.

32. The international community must be alerted to the proven link between drug trafficking and armed movements, as well as their growing ability to corrupt and destabilize societies and economies. The joint research programme being carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University on the socio-economic and political impact of production, trade and use of illicit narcotic drugs should be highlighted.

33. In view of the limited resources available, UNIDCP should focus its activities in order to achieve the maximum return. For example, it could serve as a clearing-house for experience and initiatives in all aspects of drug control and in the drafting of model legislation. The communications media represented another valuable ally in the struggle, and the Programme could give greater attention to public awareness programmes such as the campaign conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in the United States.

34. The representative of the European Community had made reference to three current drug control initiatives in Europe and to a financial action group established by the seven major industrialized nations to address the problem of money-laundering and organized crime. Those initiatives were the joint response of nations which, with vision and political will, were taking steps to protect their citizens. He expressed appreciation for the willingness of the European Community to cooperate with developing countries.

35. In the fight against drug trafficking, it was imperative to maintain respect for the sovereignty and laws of States. No country, however powerful, could claim to be the conscience of the international community. In that regard, the recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States regarding the kidnapping of drug traffickers outside that country was an attempt to legalize an abusive practice which was unacceptable to his Government. Far from facilitating and stimulating international cooperation, such a practice would obstruct it.

36. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that the problem of drug abuse was becoming increasingly complex and international in scope. Despite encouraging developments and decisive actions, the situation remained serious. UNIDCP had been established in 1991 in response to the need for a single, integrated body to coordinate the efforts of the international community to respond to the problem, and to be a catalyst for action. Czechoslovakia had participated in the thirty-fifth session of the newly-expanded Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a member, and had supported the new Programme. A spirit of cooperation had characterized that session, and the basic documents had been adopted by consensus. The resolutions adopted there would enable the Commission to become more action-oriented and would strengthen its role as the principal policy-making body in the field of drug control.

37. Czechoslovakia had repeatedly emphasized its determination to participate fully in international and regional efforts to combat drug abuse. Its main priorities were to reduce illicit transit of narcotic drugs through its territory to Western Europe and Scandinavia; to strengthen its services for prevention, medical care and education; and to equip its drug control agencies. Departing from the principle that prevention and treatment were more effective than repression, his Government was preparing a national action-oriented anti-drug programme designed to reduce demand and strengthen rehabilitation services. It was also drafting anti-drug legislation, formulating programmes for cooperation between various federal and national agencies, and carrying out a survey in cooperation with the World Health Organization.

38. Located on the Balkan route, his country attached great importance to regional cooperation in combating drugs and had taken a number of steps in that regard. It had been part of a fact-finding mission of the Commission of the European Communities investigating possibilities for cooperation; had participated actively in various regional programmes and had concluded a number of bilateral agreements. In March 1992, in the framework of the regional Balkan route programme, his Government had agreed to participate in a drug law enforcement assistance programme, in cooperation with UNIDCP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and was currently discussing requirements for implementing that programme.

39. Czechoslovakia would continue to meet in full its obligations under the international drug conventions.

40. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia) said it was clear that the international community accorded high priority to the struggle against drug abuse, a twentieth-century plague from which no country or generation was spared. Even countries traditionally free from drugs had fallen prey during the last 10 years to a host of drug-related problems. Law enforcement agencies were hard pressed to keep up with changing patterns of supply, distribution, trafficking and consumption, and to halt the spread of drug use.

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

41. The establishment of UNIDCP and the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, which his delegation fully supported, demonstrated the international community's commitment to the war on drugs. In that connection, it was important for States which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. His delegation hoped that the United Nations Decade aginst Drug Abuse, 1991-2000, would help to focus even greater international attention on the drug menace and the need for concerted action to combat it.

42. Drug use in the Gambia had for a long time been limited to recreational use of marijuana. However, a drastic change had taken place in the last few years: as a result of shifting patterns in drug distribution, the Gambia had become an important transshipment point for narcotic drugs moving from West Africa to Europe and the United States, and had also become part of the West African drug network. That had lead to an alarming increase in drug trafficking and abuse in the Gambia itself, giving rise to serious social consequences, including an increase in violent crime, breakdown of family units, and overburdened treatment programmes and law enforcement services. The Government simply did not have enough resources to combat the growing drug problem, which was particularly acute among the country's youth. Priority needs included increasing security at air- and seaports; training security personnel; setting up drug analysis laboratories; and improving treatment and rehabilitation services.

43. In spite of its limited resources, the Gambia continued to develop national anti-drug programmes. It was reviewing the Dangerous Drugs Act, passed in 1935, in the light of contemporary developments, and planned to establish an effective administrative structure to combat drug abuse. It would also be taking measures with regard to the confiscation of earnings derived from drug trafficking. In its war on drugs, in which its national drug control agency would play a central role, the Gambia would greatly appreciate assistance from the United Nations system drug control agencies, and from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

44. Mr. BURCUOGLU (Turkey) said that despite international, national and regional success in combating them, drug abuse and illicit trafficking continued to be a global threat, often linked to terrorist activities and illegal arms trading, and called for a vigorous and concerted international response. Such a response had to be directed equally to all aspects of the problem: supply, demand, illicit trafficking, rehabilitation of users, and money-laundering.

45. UNIDCP had already enabled the United Nations to play a central role in the struggle against drugs. His country had helped to establish the Programme and applauded its efforts. However, to fulfil its mandate properly, the Programme needed a solid and viable financial base. Accordingly, it should be granted a greater share of the regular budget and more generous voluntary contributions. Moreover, recruitment of Programme personnel should be based, as far as possible, on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

(Mr. Burcuoglu, Turkey)

46. The diversion of chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continued to be a matter of serious concern. In Turkey, seizures of acetic anhydride coming from Western Europe had risen from less than 1 ton in 1989 to 27 tons in 1991. He urged the countries concerned to improve their control over production and delivery of precursor and essental chemicals and, if they had not yet done so, to ratify or accede to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In that connection, his delegation welcomed resolution 1992/29 of the Economic and Social Council on measures to prevent the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

47. Turkey was concerned at the prospect of legalizing the possession and use of certain drugs for non-medical purposes. It joined with the International Narcotics Control Board in rejecting categorically any such policy, which could only encourage drug trafficking and abuse and undermine drug control efforts.

48. His country was firmly opposed to the proliferation of opiate sources, and associated itself with resolution 1992/30 of the Economic and Social Council on the demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs. In resolving that issue, due regard should be given to the economic concerns of the traditional producer countries.

49. Turkey maintained effective control of the licit production of poppy straw for the extraction of alkaloids and, in that connection, requested the support of the consumer countries. In spite of the attendant economic losses, his country had halted opium production because of the risk that the product might be diverted to illicit uses. His country had organized in September 1991 a training course for nine countries on the industrial use of medicinal plants and aromatic substances, which had encouraged the participants to initiate economically viable projects with a view to rural development and the generation of supplementary income.

50. Located on the Balkan route, Turkey was faced with an increasing amount of illicit transit, and had mobilized substantial resources to meet the challenge. To that end, it cooperated in various bilateral, regional and international efforts. It had also signed in June 1992, as part of the regional Balkan route programme, an agreement with UNIDCP, which would help strengthen Turkey's services for detection and law enforcement.

51. His Government had always attached particular importance to cooperation among law enforcement agencies. It supported the efforts of UNIDCP in the Balkan region, including the establishment of a regional information network on detection and suppression of drug-related crimes, the drug law enforcement training project and the drug laboratory project. It had also signed bilateral cooperation agreements with a number of countries.

(Mr. Burçuoglu, Turkey)

52. His Government currently complied with several provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, particularly in the area of precursor substances. Ratification of the Convention was currently on the agenda of the Turkish Parliament.

53. In conclusion, he noted that the increase in drug-related crime called for effective cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.